## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA STATESVILLE DIVISION

CLIFFORD T, NICHOLSON.

Plaintiff.

Civil Action No. 5:24-cv-00052

v.

MARTIN O'MALLEY, Commissioner of Social Security Administration,

Defendant.

## **ORDER**

**THIS MATTER** is before the Court through a motion by Plaintiff, Clifford Nicholson, for an award of attorney's fees, expenses, and costs pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act. Defendant has consented to that motion.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Plaintiff, Clifford Nicholson, is awarded attorney fees in the amount of Three Thousand One Hundred Dollars and 00/100 Cents (\$3,150.00). Full or partial remittance of the EAJA award will be contingent upon a determination by the Government that Plaintiff owes no qualifying, pre-existing debt(s) to the Government.

If Plaintiff has no outstanding federal debt, the Commissioner may honor any EAJA assignment that Plaintiff may provide and make the check(s) payable to Plaintiff's counsel. However, if Plaintiff has an outstanding federal debt, the Commissioner will make the check(s) payable to Plaintiff directly and deliver the check(s) to the business address of Plaintiff's counsel. The amount of EAJA award payable to Plaintiff will be the balance of EAJA award remaining after subtracting the amount of Plaintiff's outstanding federal debt. This award will be paid directly to Plaintiff, Clifford Nicholson, and sent to the business address of Plaintiff's counsel. If Plaintiff's outstanding federal debt exceeds the amount of the EAJA award approved pursuant to

the Order, the amount of the EAJA award will be used to offset Plaintiff's federal debt and no EAJA award shall be paid.

Signed: July 17, 2024

Graham C. Mullen

United States District Judge